

Edmonton, February 2nd, 1948.

*add to Dept of the Provincial Secretary*

TO The Honourable Alfred J. Hooke, M.L.A.,  
Provincial Secretary,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit a report of the chief transactions of the Department of the Provincial Secretary for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1947, including statistics for the calendar year 1947 under The Companies Branch, Motor Vehicles Branch, The Amusements Act and The Automobile Accident Indemnity Act.

REVENUE1946-1947

Alberta Insurance Act:	
Agents' License Fees:	
Fire and Other Classes.....	\$ 28,221.35
Life.....	6,291.00
Companies License Fees:	
Fire and Other Classes.....	93,957.50
Life.....	10,810.00
Amusements Tax Act:	
Amusements Tax.....	339,095.15
Pari-Mutuel Tax.....	95,294.35
Change of Name Act.....	2,024.00
Companies Act:	
Alberta Companies.....	43,969.22
Foreign Companies.....	11,684.85
Corporation Taxation Act:	
Miscellaneous Companies.....	1,717.00
Dominion Government Grant in lieu of:	
Alberta Insurance Act.....	641.97
Banking Corporations Temporary Additional Taxation Act...	98,500.00
Corporations Taxation Act.....	893,356.87
Corporations Temporary Additional Taxation Act.....	40,508.60
Railway Taxation Act.....	443,318.10
Surcharge on Railway Tax.....	38,452.05
Fire Prevention Act.....	13,956.22
Fuel Oil Tax Act.....	5,403,921.46
Garagemen's Lien Act.....	285.75
Lightning Rod Act.....	140.00
Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act.....	5,665.00
Theatres Act:	
Censorship Fees.....	27,388.00
License Fees.....	16,557.05
Moving Picture Operators Fees.....	3,369.75
Trust Companies Act.....	150.00
Vehicles and Highway Traffic Act:	
Dealers Plates.....	17,031.00
Drivers' Licenses.....	174,093.25
Owners' Certificates.....	1,521,084.91
Transfer Fees.....	13,650.95
Miscellaneous Revenue.....	2,294.60
Miscellaneous:	
Casual.....	223.90
Extracts, Searches etc.....	580.27
Filing Fees.....	100.00
King's Counsel Patent.....	400.00
Miscellaneous Registrations.....	658.15
Unlicensed Insurance Tax.....	52.73
Profit on Sale of Fuel Oil Dye.....	4,274.19

TOTAL..... \$ 9,354,219.19

REVENUE 1945-1946 \$ 9,037,211.51

THE COMPANIES BRANCH AND GENERAL OFFICE

As a result of the continued reconversion to peacetime economy and the discovery of oil in the district north-west of Leduc, the rate of incorporation of Alberta companies was maintained at a level very appreciably in excess of the average for years prior to 1946. The Leduc discovery and an aggressive policy of checking on foreign companies carrying on business in Alberta resulted in an appreciable increase in extra-provincial company registrations. Incorporations and registrations for the past three years were as follows:

	<u>Calendar Years</u>		
	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
Number of Alberta Company Incorporations -	285	408	401
Number of Foreign Company Registrations -	30	50	78

There are more companies qualified to do business in Alberta than ever before and as a result there has been a substantial increase in the number of applications received from companies for supplementary certificates respecting re-organization of capital, alteration of objects and articles, etc., etc.

Incorporations effected under statutes other than The Companies Act are as shown below:

	<u>Calendar Years</u>	
	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
The Societies Act.....	109	84
The Co-operative Associations Act.....	27	25
The Credit Union Act.....	15	8
The Religious Societies' Lands Act.....	17	27
The Cemetery Act.....	5	3

During the calendar year 1947, 207 persons were granted a change of name under The Change of Name Act as compared with 213 the previous year. 1,473 Claims of Lien under The Garagemen's Lien Act were filed in 1947 as compared with 1,261 the previous year.



THE MOTOR VEHICLE BRANCH

Registrations again show a marked increase in Automobiles operating this fiscal year. This is further exemplified during the calendar year for the nine months period April 1st to December 31st, 1947, being part of the fiscal year 1947-1948, when registrations reached an all high total of 102,520 or 7,462 over that of the fiscal year 1946-1947. Registration of Motorcycles, Dealers and recording of Transfers also show a marked increase for this period being 729; 371 and 2,300 respectively over that of the fiscal year.

Motor Vehicle accidents have increased appreciably. This may be said to be partly due to the large increase of Automobiles on the road and I presume that this condition will naturally prevail with increased registrations in the future.

With regard to convictions for infractions of The Vehicle and Highway Traffic Act and the Criminal Code the Cities of Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat exceed that of the remainder of the Province. This may be said to be partly due to the greater number of automobiles operating in smaller areas hence a greater chance of accident. An example of this is evidenced by the City of Calgary where convictions greatly exceed that of the City of Edmonton.

General speaking accidents result from:-

- Excessive speed
- Careless and negligent driving.
- Careless winter driving
- Negligence at railway crossings.
- Neglecting precautions to offset winter hazards.
- Passing on hills and curves.
- Children playing on streets and roadways.
- Careless motorcycle and bicycle operators.
- Passing standing street cars.
- Careless pedestrians.
- Vehicles with improper lighting.

Motor vehicles following too closely.

Backing from parking places.

Poor visibility due to:-

Sun glare

Dust

Wind and rain

Snow and sleet

Dirty windshields, etc.

Drivers fatigue and operating under the influence.

Poor mechanical condition of motor vehicle.

Blowouts, etc.

Fatal accidents during the fiscal year 1946-1947 total forty-eight (48) while forty-three (43) persons were killed during the period April 1st to December 31st, 1947 which is comparable with the fiscal year.

The Motor Vehicle branch has this year mailed two pamphlets to all car owners. One pamphlet being a synopsis of The Automobile Accident Indemnity Act and the other dealing with safe driving, mailed on behalf of the Edmonton Safety Council. In addition the branch distributed a pamphlet on behalf of the Alberta Motor Association also dealing with safe driving. This pamphlet was distributed by Departmental offices at Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat and issuers at country points.

The Automobile Accident Indemnity Act which came into force April 1st, 1947 has greatly increased the work of the Branch, also that of the Insurance Branch. The Motor Vehicle Branch is responsible for the collection of the individual fee and the suspending of the license of the Driver whilst the Superintendent of Insurance is responsible for the general administration of The Unsatisfied Judgment Fund. In connection with the distribution of a synopsis of the Act to all Motor Vehicle drivers, mentioned in a preceding paragraph, it was felt that the general motoring public should be made as familiar as possible with the workings of the Act, hence the synopsis was prepared by the Department and issued accordingly. It is



considered that the placing of this synopsis in the hands of the motoring public has had good effect and that the information contained therein has considerably lessened correspondence which would otherwise have been found to be necessary.

Statistics as affecting the Motor Vehicle Branch will be found hereunder whilst further statistics as affecting the Insurance Branch and the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund will be found later in this report.

<u>Licenses Issued as per Fiscal Year</u>	<u>1946-1947</u>	<u>1945-1946</u>
Passenger Cars .....	95,058	89,789
Motor Cycles .....	994	760
Dealers Plates .....	865	513
Drivers Licenses	177,006	162,055

Licenses Issued April 1st, 1947 to December 31st, 1947 ( Nine Months )

Passenger Cars .....	102,520
Motor Cycles .....	1,519
Dealers Plates .....	1,136
Drivers Licenses .....	188,160

<u>Convictions as per Fiscal Year</u>	<u>"V. &amp; H.T.A."</u>	<u>Section 285 "Criminal Code"</u>
Calgary .....	1,158	106
Edmonton .....	699	110
Lethbridge .....	290	59
Medicine Hat .....	66	29
All Others .....	1,401	177
	<u>3,614</u>	<u>481</u>

Convictions from April 1st, 1947 to December 31st, 1947 ( Nine Months )

	<u>"V. &amp; H.T.A."</u>	<u>Section 285 "Criminal Code"</u>
Calgary .....	1,008	121
Edmonton .....	758	110
Lethbridge .....	206	15
Medicine Hat .....	61	10
All Others .....	1,385	249
	<u>3,418</u>	<u>505</u>

Accidents as per Fiscal Year 1946-1947

Accidents all classes .....	4,556
Accidents where damages exceed \$25.00 .....	3,995
Fatal Accidents .....	48
Personal Injury Accidents .....	967
Persons Killed in Fatal Accidents .....	56
Persons Injured in Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1,503
Convictions under Section 285 (4) "Criminal Code of Canada" (Intoxicated in charge of a Motor Vehicle) .....	35
Drivers Licenses Suspended by Court Order .....	86
Persons required to file Financial Responsibility Insurance.	120
Judgments exceeding \$100.00 .....	2

Accidents from April 1st, 1947 to December 31st, 1947 ( Nine Months )

Accidents all classes .....	4,376
Accidents where damages exceed \$25.00 .....	3,597
Fatal Accidents .....	43
Personal Injury Accidents .....	891
Persons Killed in Fatal Accidents .....	51
Persons Injured in Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1,413
Convictions under Section 285 (4) "Criminal Code of Canada" (Intoxicated in charge of a Motor Vehicle) .....	68
Drivers Licenses suspended by Court Order .....	145
Persons required to file Financial Responsibility Insurance.	126
Judgments exceeding \$100.00 .....	7



AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT INDEMNITY ACT STATISTICS

For the Period April 1st, 1947 to December 31st, 1947 (Nine Months)

Accidents with personal injury or damages exceeding \$25.00 ....	3,597
Drivers contacted by letter re Insurance .....	2,890
Drivers or Chauffeurs Licenses suspended by Department .....	363
Drivers or Chauffeurs Licenses reinstated by Department .....	74
Drivers or Chauffeurs Licenses still under suspension .....	289
Drivers not in possession of Drivers License at date of Accident	22

THE FUEL OIL TAX ACT

For the Fiscal Year 1946-1947

Total sales increased appreciably during the period being 24,000,000 gallons over that of the previous year or an increase of approximately 20%. This may be said to be due to normal sales increase together with the fact that sales of Motor Vehicles, farm and industrial machinery are on the up trend.

Gallons sold at seven cents tax .....	70,289,738.75
Gallons sold (purple coloured) at one cent net tax .....	75,157,862.90
Gallons sold by permit at one cent net tax .....	131,509

TOTAL SALES	<u>145,579,110.65</u>
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For the Period April 1st to December 31st, 1947 (Nine Months)

Gallons sold at seven cents tax .....	5,380,614.98
Gallons sold at nine cents tax .....	57,852,356.55
Gallons sold (purple coloured) at one cent net tax .....	79,803,230.40
Gallons sold by permit at one cent net tax .....	143,113
Gallons sold (Propane) at one cent net tax .....	90,125

TOTAL SALES	<u>143,269,439.93</u>
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With January, February and March of the current fiscal year to be reported gallonage should be approximately another twenty-two million gallons.

Net Revenue for the fiscal year was .....	\$ 5,403,921.46
Net Revenue for the previous fiscal year was .....	<u>4,463,196.30</u>
Increase fiscal year 1946-1947 .....	<u>\$ 940,725.16</u>

Net revenue for the nine months ending December 31st, 1947 is \$6,069,129.46. It is expected that with the three months to be reported Net Revenue will be approximately \$7,200,000.00. The greatly increased revenue for this nine months period is chiefly due to the increase in tax from seven cents to nine cents per gallon which was made effective as of April 1st, 1947 and the increase in sales as per gallonage quoted.



THE FIRE PREVENTION ACT

An increase in fire prevention activities is essential in view of rapidly increasing fire losses, and while the actual fire loss for the year 1947 is not available now--tabulation not being completed, the loss is quite evident in excess of that in the previous year. This however is not peculiar only to Alberta but is a condition existing in the majority of the Provinces as well as in the United States. The appropriation for fire prevention work in the Province was increased during the year and additional staff employed. Two additional Inspectors were taken on--one in the person of G. W. Allen, Inspector (late of the R.C.M.P.) and M. J. Bedard (for 10 years with the City of Edmonton Fire Department). Mr. Allen is being employed on regular fire investigation and inspection, and Mr. Bedard is operating a mobile fire unit to assist towns and villages in fire fighting and organization and maintenance of voluntary fire brigades.

A much larger number of inspections with consequently greater removal of fire hazards was undertaken in 1947 as compared with any other year. One hundred and eighty-five towns and villages were visited and inspected; eight hundred and forty-five written Orders to remedy fire hazards were issued and four hundred and eighteen verbal orders given, followed up by written recommendations. One hundred and forty-two special inspections were carried out involving hospitals, schools, hotels, public institutions, and inspection and fire drill of fire departments. Sixty-eight investigations of fire losses of suspicious origin were conducted by Inspectors of the Department and three convictions obtained--one involving a prison term and two committed to mental institutions. Seventeen losses were suspected to be of incendiary origin. One Court of Inquiry was held in Calgary by the Fire Commissioner under the provisions of The Fire Prevention Act, involving a fire loss in that City. Two investigations were undertaken under The Lightning Rod Act and two convictions secured.

Notable among the activities of the Fire Commissioner during the year was the removal of twenty-seven houses in close proximity to the British American Oil Refinery in East Calgary. This involved the expenditure of some \$50,000.00 contributed by the British American Oil Company Limited, City of Calgary and the Government. Following a complaint by residents living in close proximity to the oil tanks of the British American Oil Refinery a public enquiry was held by the Fire Commissioner as a result of a fire and explosion on April 21st and 22nd. This culminated activities by the Fire Commissioner over a period of approximately two years, working in conjunction with head officials of the British American Oil Company Limited and the City of Calgary. The Fire Commissioner is now involved in enquiries into infiltration of oil in East Calgary as a result of complaints to him by the Commissioners of the City of Calgary and certain residents and manufacturers in East Calgary.

Fire Prevention Tax collected under The Fire Prevention Act during the year totalled \$14,511.68 being a decrease of \$147.88 over the revenue collected in a like period in 1946.

#### THE ALBERTA INSURANCE ACT

Activities increased considerably under this Statute during 1947 and notable among the events was the holding of the Thirtieth Annual Convention of the Association of Provincial Superintendents of Insurance at Jasper, Alberta, September 8th to 12th. Every Province was represented by its Superintendent of Insurance and with the exception of one Province its Legislative Counsel. Approximately two hundred and fifty representatives of the insurance fraternity registered at Convention meetings. The Government was represented both by the Premier and the Provincial Secretary.

During the year a considerable number of investigations and enquiries were undertaken in the matter of alleged unsatisfied settlement of claims by companies and respecting alleged infractions of the Act. In the former instance adjustments were made in some cases by the companies



on the recommendation of the office of the Superintendent of Insurance, but in most cases investigations disclosed a misunderstanding of policy contracts by the assured or of the circumstances under which liability was to accrue. In every case the circumstances were fully explained to the complainant. In the latter instance prosecution was instituted where this was found necessary and fourteen convictions for violation of The Alberta Insurance Act were obtained. These were as follows:

Seven at \$20.00 and costs

Five at \$200.00 and costs

One at \$50.00 and costs

One at \$25.00 and costs

Considerable activity was undertaken in respect to unlicensed insurance and the larger fines imposed above were those respecting agents soliciting for unlicensed companies.

There was an increase in the number of both insurance companies and insurance agents licensed during the year, these being as follows:

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
Companies Licensed	288	296
Agents licensed	3,665	3,657

Great care has been taken in the licensing of agents in view of the new agency licensing regulations put into effect in 1946 and nineteen Advisory Board meetings were held during the period under review. Eighty-two applications for license were reviewed by the Board--eighty of these being declined and two approved. Eighteen applications were withdrawn by the applicant before being put before a board, while seven appealed and were granted a re-board--five of which were finally passed but two again declined.

The revenue of the branch increased during the year from \$76,471.13 in 1946 (April 1st to December 31st, 1947 only) to \$85,751.18 in 1947.

THE REAL ESTATE AGENTS' LICENSING ACT

This Statute passed at the last Session of the Legislature has proved much more suitable than was the previous Statute and this, together with The Alberta Insurance Act, is being enforced strictly in accordance with the terms thereof. The appointment of Advisory Boards under both Acts and submission of doubtful applications to the Board is undoubtedly a step in the right direction and has given satisfaction both to the business and to the public in general.

29 Board meetings were held during the year.

18 applications for license were refused.

11 applications were granted.

18 withdrawn by the applicants, being unable to submit sufficient evidence to warrant a license.

28 licenses were cancelled or suspended during the year.

5 charges were laid under the Act and 5 convictions obtained.

Revenue under the Act increased during the year for the last nine months (April 1st to December 31st) from \$5,045.50 in 1946 to \$5,690.75 in 1947.

THE AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT LIABILITY ACT

This Statute, assented to at the last Session of the Legislature, has been in force during the intervening period. From April 1st to December 31st, 1947, 1,645 reports of accidents were considered by the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance and the Motor Vehicle Branch. Two cars are not always involved in each accident, and while investigation in a number of cases is still pending, in the cases already dealt with 1,246 cars have been found to carry insurance and 989 without. On the investigations to date 363 drivers' licenses have been returned to the Motor Vehicle Branch and 74 of them released by the Superintendent of Insurance. Royal Canadian Mounted Police and City Police have prosecuted 22 drivers found to be driving when not licensed whilst 361 car owners



supplied proof of financial responsibility during the year by way of insurance. Others of course, whose cases are pending will also be required to provide proof of financial responsibility.

Fifteen deposits were made by car owners under the Act totalling \$9,782.25 covering damage to property and had their license released--two of which were paid out of the deposits covering claims during the year totalling \$325.00. In addition, three claims were paid during the year from the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund as hospital indemnity totalling \$260.75 while two claims are pending--both being before the Courts.

Some discrepancies were found in the Act during the year and recommendations have already gone forward for amendments. Generally speaking however, administration of the Statute during the period under review was found quite satisfactory although now involving considerable routine which it is expected will considerably increase in the course of time.

THE AMUSEMENTS ACT

Licenses issued during the calendar year 1947

Entertainment Halls .....	770
Theatres .....	309
Film Exchanges .....	11
Itinerant Exhibitors .....	34
Travelling Shows (Including Carnivals) .....	68

AMUSEMENTS TAX

Revenue and Admissions during the calendar year 1947

<u>City</u>	<u>Revenue</u> <u>1947</u>	<u>Admissions</u> <u>1947</u>	<u>Admissions</u> <u>1946</u>
Calgary	\$ 104,845.46	3,601,437	4,185,095
Edmonton	99,514.58	3,565,363	4,031,400
Lethbridge	17,498.42	606,121	747,313
Medicine Hat	11,512.36	453,646	498,116
All Other Places	125,859.27	3,904,360	3,714,667
	<u>\$ 359,237.09</u>	<u>12,231,150</u>	<u>13,176,671</u>

PARI-MUTUEL TAX

Net Tax received on Pari-Mutuel Betting during the calendar year 1947

Calgary .....	\$ 42,921.00
Edmonton .....	50,176.40
Others .....	53.03
TOTAL	<u>\$ 93,156.33</u>



THEATRES BRANCH

TABLE NO. 1

TABULATION OF PLANS SURVEYED, PLACES INSPECTED AND NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
MADE UNDER THE THEATRE REGULATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
APRIL 1st, 1946 to MARCH 31st, 1947.

Number of plans surveyed .....	45
New places recommended for license .....	45
Number of places inspected .....	60
Recommendations re Wiring .....	96
Recommendations re Fire Precautions .....	108
Recommendations re Exits .....	64
Recommendations re Aisles and Seating .....	31
Recommendations re Ventilation and Sanitation .....	37

TABLE NO. 2

TABULATION OF PROJECTION ROOMS AND PROJECTORS INSPECTED AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
MADE UNDER THE THEATRE REGULATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
APRIL 1st, 1946 to MARCH 31st, 1947

Projection rooms inspected .....	79
Number of projectors inspected .....	158
Recommendations for repairs .....	129
Projectors condemned as defective .....	21
Recommendations re Wiring .....	61
Recommendations re Fire Precautions .....	63
Recommendations re Ventilation .....	35
Number of projection rooms condemned .....	24

TABLE NO. 3

SUMMARY OF EXAMINATIONS TOGETHER WITH NUMBER AND CLASS OF CERTIFICATES  
ISSUED TO PROJECTIONISTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
APRIL 1st, 1946 to MARCH 31st, 1947

Number of Licenses Issued

First .....	119
Second .....	114
Third .....	106
Apprentice .....	1
Provisory Permits .....	40
Narrow Gauge .....	142
TOTAL	<u>567</u>

Number of Examinations Held

First .....	3
Second .....	15
Third .....	23
TOTAL	<u>41</u>

Temporary Permissions Granted ..... 32



CENSORSHIP FILMS

In the course of the year 2,130 standard (35mm) films of all classes - scenic, topical, educational, commercial, dramatic and 4,899 narrow gauge (16mm) films of all classes - scenic, topical, educational, medical, agricultural, religious, documentary, advertising, reduction prints of 35mm feature length films, including several continental dramatic features, were screened

As a film is made up in reels, each reel averaging about 1,000 feet in length, the screening may be set out thus:

STANDARD FILMS

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Films</u>	<u>Reels</u>
United States of America	2,090	4,057
United Kingdom	34	259
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	6	20
	<u>2,130</u>	<u>5,136</u>

NARROW GAUGE FILMS

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Films</u>	<u>Reels</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>
United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada	4,887	5,640	-
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	12	6	1
	<u>4,899</u>	<u>5,686</u>	<u>1</u>

RESULTS OF INSPECTION

The films which chiefly concern the Censorship Board are the feature or dramatic films. The 2,130 standard films were dealt with in the following manner:-

	<u>Films</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>
Passed without Eliminations	2,055	-
Passed with Eliminations	71	117
Rejected	4	-
	<u>2,130</u>	<u>117</u>

REJECTED 35mm

	<u>#Features</u>	<u>#Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rejected in first instance	2	2	4
Passed on appeal or reconstructed	0	0	0
Rejected on appeal	0	0	0
Number of appeals	0	0	0

x "The Devil Thumbs a Ride" and "Brute Force"

# "Scram" (Re-issue - originally passed "U" in 1932) and "Let's Go Latin"

Screening of all classes of standard size (35mm) film during the year 1947 shows an increase of 135 compared with 1946, the total for 1947 being 2,130. Screening and stamping of sub-standard (16mm) film has shown a phenomenal increase during 1947 due almost entirely to the legislation that all films, commercial or non-commercial, be submitted for viewing and stamping. Of the total 4,899 only 247 were classified as commercial and censorship fees collected.

Four (35mm) films were rejected completely and in others 117 eliminations were made. The four rejected portrayed brutality, sadism and viciousness in the extreme. Eliminations generally flouted the principles of morality and the boundaries of good taste.

During the year two moviola film editing machines (one for 35 mm and one for 16mm) were ordered. The 35mm machine to be delivered during the 1947 fiscal year and the 16mm machine later. The installation of these machines will considerably speed up editing and enable more precise cutting.

During the calendar year 1947 the branch censored films as indicated hereunder:-

394 - First Print Features .....	3,106 Reels
436 - First Print Shorts .....	557 Reels
261 - First Print News .....	261 Reels
130 - First Print Episode Serials .....	265 Reels
203 - Second Print Features .....	1,906 1/3 Reels
87 - Second Print Shorts .....	135 Reels
621 - Second Print News .....	621 Reels
904 - Trailers .....	-
243 - First Print Soundies - 16mm - .....	1,711 Reels
4 - Second Print Soundies - 16mm - .....	10 Reels
3 - Features .....	40 Reels
2 - Shorts .....	3 Reels

Refusals ..... 4 (2 Features and 2 Shorts)

Eliminations ..... 117

Passed "U" ..... 53.7%

Overall "U" ..... 75.7%

British Features ..... 23

Russian Features ..... 4

FEATURES REFUSED

May ..... The Devil Thumbs a Ride

July ..... Brute Force

SHORTS REFUSED

June ..... Scram (Re-issue)

September ..... Let's Go Latin

Non-Commercial 16mm Subjects Passed ..... 4,652



FILM COMMISSIONER'S BRANCH

The Film Commissioner's Branch was formed in February of 1947 following the decision of the Government to set up a central film library for the distribution and maintenance of all Government films.

Previous to the commencement of any actual organization the Film Commissioner made a personal survey of the work being done by the corresponding office in the Province of Saskatchewan. During this visit he also took advantage of an offer made by General Films Limited of Regina which gave him a short course in film booking, distribution and maintenance, as well as equipment maintenance. Following this, a survey of the work being done in other Provinces was made.

During the month of July the Commissioner made a journey to Eastern Canada for the purpose of meeting officials of the National Film Board and other producers interested in Alberta as a possible source of material. While there preliminary arrangements were made for the production of a film on Alberta.

In August and September this branch, along with other members of the Provincial Secretary's Department and the Department of Economic Affairs, assisted members of the National Film Board on the beginning of this production. A few days were spent in Turner Valley and Peace River on locations for the industrial and education sequences of the film. Some valuable information was obtained for future use in the production of our own films. Due to unfavourable weather conditions further shooting had to be cancelled until spring when it is expected the production will continue.

A beginning was also made in the encouragement of community film services. Many points across Canada were dropped from the itineraries of the National Film Board representatives due to a reduction in the budget of that organization. The branch has made efforts to take up these places by encouraging the purchase of suitable equipment and providing a source of films.

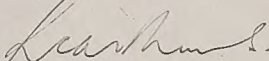
Due to the fact that no recreation facilities were available to the workers at Bitumont, site of the Oil Sands Plant, the workers were very discontented. A projector, purchased by the Department of Economic Affairs, was placed on loan to responsible Government officials there and arrangements were made for the supply of one entertainment film program per week.

Although no additional space has yet been made available some attention has been given to the care and maintenance of equipment and to furthering the film program of the Government.

Co-operation between the branch and other agencies, such as the National Film Board and the Extension Department of the University of Alberta, is very satisfactory. We are assured that films of interest to Albertans will be available at all times in the fact that these films are placed on loan to the Government by the National Film Board.

With the advantage of new premises it is expected that this work will take on added importance to the many Government departments and other agencies as well as the people of the Province in general.

Respectfully submitted



R. C. Arthurs,  
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

RCA:KH

